

Arboretum News

Fall 1997

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE CALIFORNIA ARBORETUM FOUNDATION

50 Years of Plants and People - California Arboretum Foundation 1948-1998

A Natural Partnership

by Bill Robinson

Modern agriculture has adopted the adage, "Chronic problems with disease and pests are not the cause of crop failure. They are the symptoms."

A plant that is not doing well is more vulnerable to problems with pests or disease. The right plant in the right place with the right care is pest and disease-resistant.

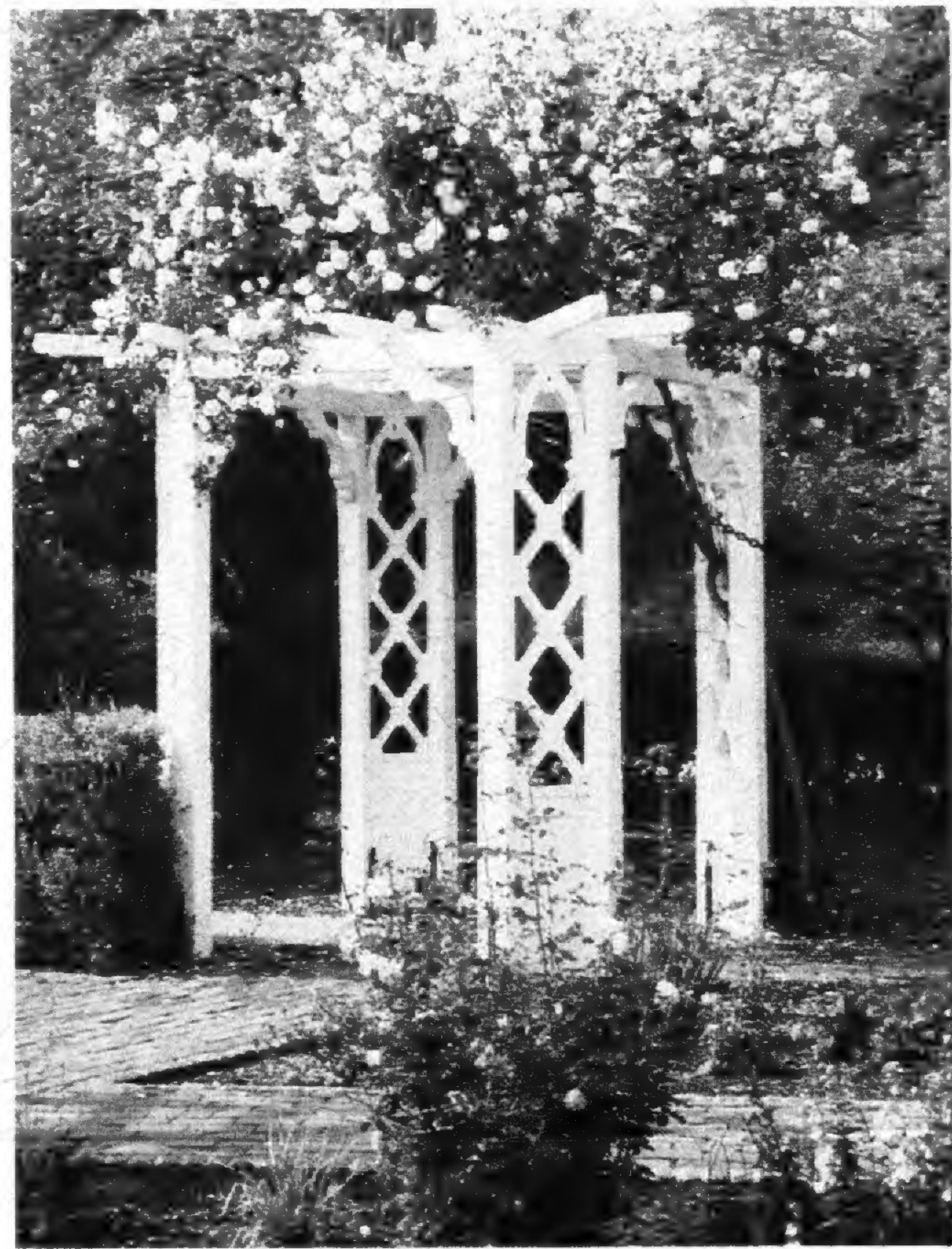
Insecticides, fungicides or herbicides have not been used in the Victorian Rose Garden at The Arboretum since it was replanted in 1993. How do we do it? For the most part, we use nothing but basic gardening techniques, because we want to get away from the use of toxic materials. This is, in part, out of concern for the environment and, in part, because we can grow a healthier and more vigorous garden without the use of toxic materials. We also want to demonstrate to the home gardener that environmentally-friendly gardening is a viable option.

For pest control, we try to keep the garden clean. We use clean compost as a mulch. We try to use common sense regarding the way we water and fertilize. We do judicious pruning and occasionally squirt off the foliage with plain water. For disease control, all of the previously mentioned ingredients are involved. In addition, we use disease-resistant plant varieties. Each plant is "auditioned" to earn a place in the garden. Each plant is also subjected to

periodic review on a continuing basis. When it seems to us that the plant is not doing well, or is a significant threat to the well being of the garden, it comes out.

Organic gardening is infinitely more labor intensive than using chemicals. In the Rose Garden we have lugged close to 200 yards of compost-about 20 big dump trucks- in wheel barrows to get it to the garden. We have placed every last bit of it in the beds, one hand-full at a time. The Rose Garden volunteers put in about 2,000 hours a year in maintenance. For home gardeners this may provide some idea of the time and effort these tasks require before taking on your own "back 40!" Weed control is part of the drill with lots of clean compost as a mulch. Weed by hand. It's the only way. There are no short cuts when partnering with nature.

Rich soil is a result of using large amounts of compost as mulch and organic fertilizers. Keep in mind we are talking about an organic garden, a natural garden. This means that it is not a garden that is totally free of pests, disease or weeds, but that they are pretty much under control. A gardener's favorite has to be Christopher Lloyd, who reminds us that "a gardener must train his eye not to see those things he doesn't want to see." Given the choice between a totally pest-free garden that is just doing "ok" or a few bugs, but a vigorous garden, we go with the bugs every time.



Victorian Rose Garden

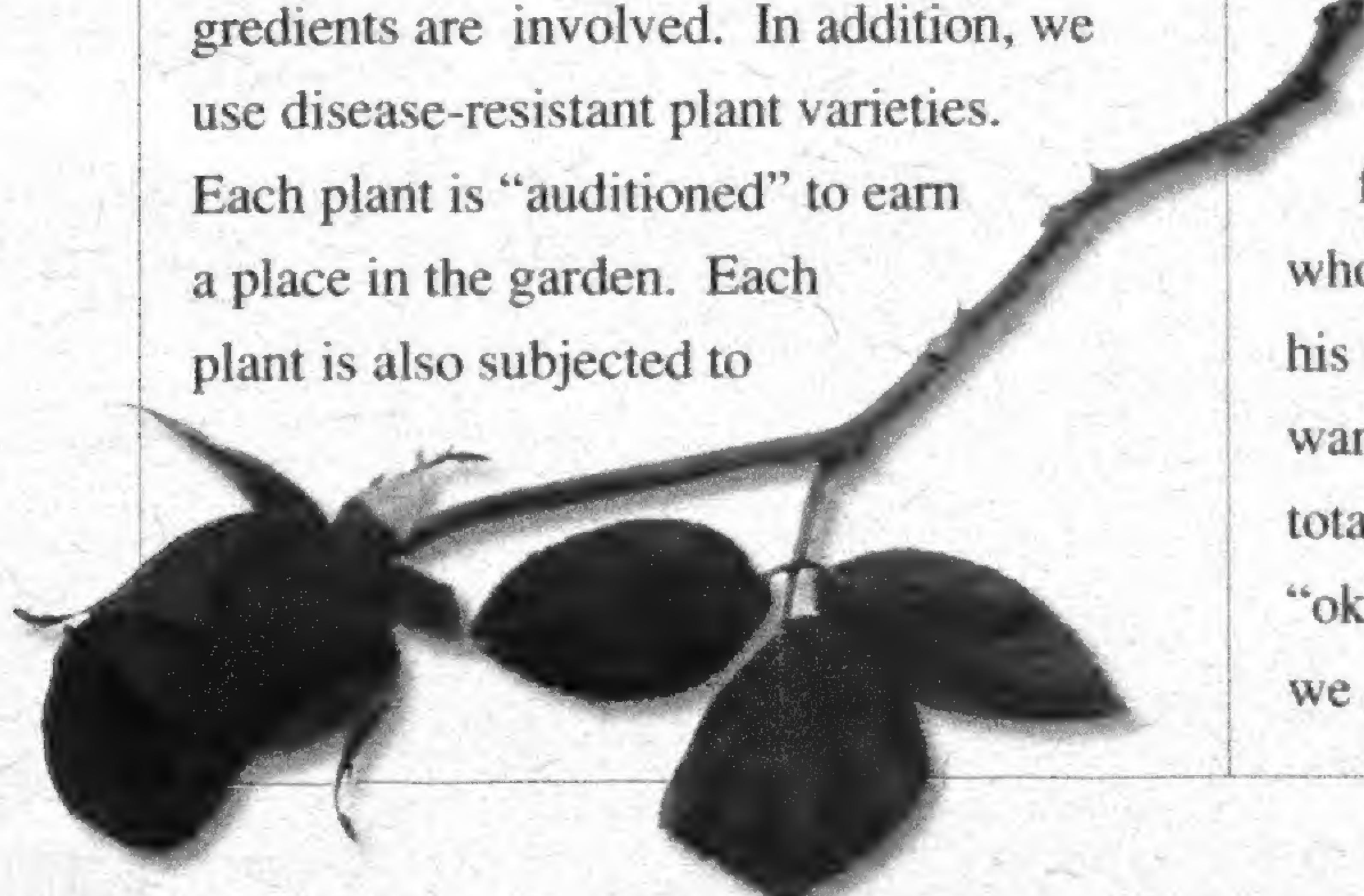
We get by without the use of pesticides in the Rose Garden because of the vigorous growth. We have vigorous growth because we have the right plants, good soil, a good watering system, and a healthy environment.

Looking for a definition of organic gardening? Here's mine: Gardening that uses environmentally-friendly materials, coupled with environmentally-friendly cultural practices."

Environmental friendliness is of even more significance than whether a material is, or is not, of "natural" origin. Think in terms of gardening organically, for the most part, because it results in a better garden.

This definition of organic gardening is reflected throughout the organic gardening classes here at The Arboretum. The classes include an overview of organic gardening, examining advantages

Continued on page two



A Natural Partnership

Continued from page one

and disadvantages, looking at what is really involved and looks closely at soils and the working of the soil micro and macro organisms.

So much of the success of an organic approach depends on the quality and vitality of the garden soil involved.

Composting is on the class schedule along with ways to use the different organic materials in the garden and the issues of plant nutrition, including Rodales thought on feeding the soil as a way to feed the plants. The last three sessions really go into the alternatives to the use of the various pesticides.

One session is on weeds, weed prevention and control, with another session on plant and soil disease. Emphasis is on preventing or minimizing plant and soil disease as well as ways to treat or clean-up infected plants or soils. Another session is on preventing and controlling garden pests.

One of the engrossing things about organic gardening is that it is so indirect. Most garden insects are beneficial in that they mostly feed on garden pests or decaying plant material. In a balanced ecosystem they help keep the garden pests in check. They are, in fact, the central control agents in the garden.

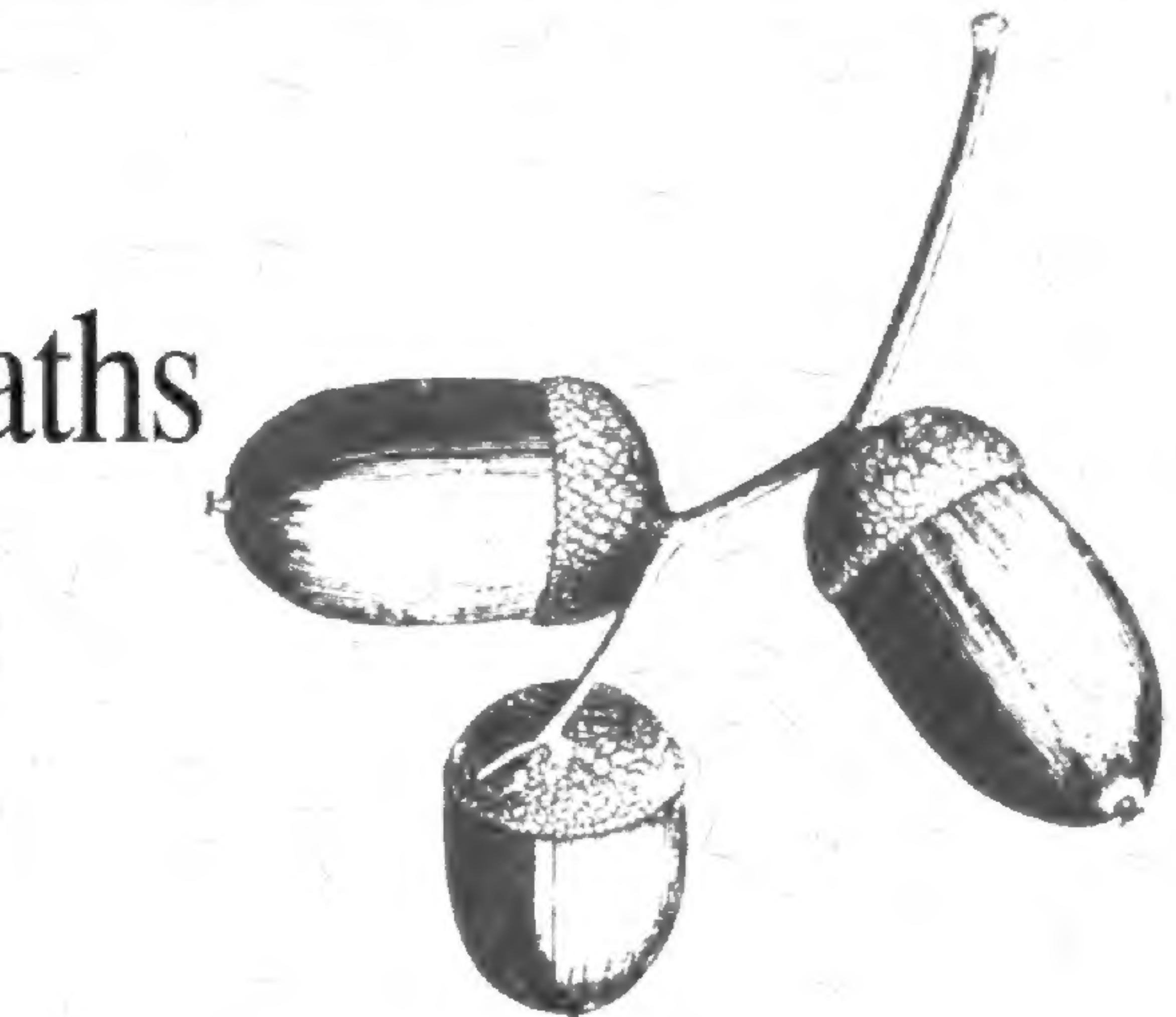
In some instances insecticides may be more effective in killing off the beneficial insects than they are in killing the garden pests. In practice, it makes sense to think in terms of protecting the beneficials rather than in "controlling" the pests, and to consider alternatives.

Finally, uppermost in my mind is that the garden should grow well by working in cooperation with nature and by protecting the ecosystem of the garden. In Arboretum classes, I like to impart as much information as possible and, in the process, to have a good time with fellow gardeners. ☐

Along Arboretum Paths

*Excerpted from Early September Highlights
compiled by members of The Arboretum staff*

View The Arboretum by taking Arboretum paths from the main entrance north toward the mountains. Continue in this direction past the large spreading **LIVE OAK** (*Quercus agrifolia*) and you will enter the **Garden for All Seasons**, which is maintained by a Los Voluntarios committee. Here you will see many plants of all varieties and displays of special interest to the home gardener. Spend some time here before moving on to the **Begonia Greenhouse**. Begonias are shown in a wide variety of sizes, colors and shapes. Their foliage colors include green, silver, pink and purple with leaves varying from smooth and glossy to rough and crinkled. Along the path around the corner behind the **Begonia Greenhouse** and through the Shade Garden, is the **Tropical Greenhouse**. Here are the Orchids, Anthuriums and Spathiphyllums, all blooming in a setting of both common and unusual tropical plants. Emerge from the **Tropical Greenhouse**, cross the road,



continue a few yards along the path and look to your right. A forest of white trunks and weeping silver-blue foliage is before you. Most of these trees are **AUSTRALIAN EUCALYPTUS**. These trees are native to Australia and Tasmania and were originally introduced to California as a rapidly maturing source of timber. They are very common to the California landscape. A few species have become naturalized in parts of California where the environment resembles their own native habitat. In the Australian section note a number of **BOTTLE-BRUSH** (*Callistemon*), small to large shrubs with red, pale green or magenta brushlike flowers. End your walk by resting under the broad spreading canopy of the very old specimen of our native **ENGELMANN OAK**. You will recognize it by its dull bluish leaves. ☐

50TH ANNIVERSARY BIENNIAL NOTE BOOK

50 Years of Plants and People California Arboretum Foundation 1948-1998

- 1880 Lucky Baldwin ships 591 boxes of citrus via railroad harvested from his 14,700 trees at what is now The Arboretum.
- 1883 Lucky Baldwin was shot by his cousin Verona, "enhancing his reputation as a Lothario."
- 1936 *Tarzan Escapes* shot at The Arboretum, enhancing its movie location reputation.
- 1984 Recognition is given to Dr.

Samuel Ayres Jr, a CAF incorporator at the first Board of Trustees meeting in 1948.

• 1984 Los Voluntarios y Aydantes (Los Voluntarios) report 300 members.

• 1986 CAF continues its annual horticultural education program organized by educational specialist Wendy Sekovich. Attendees at all three sessions receive Certificates of Completion.

1 Silver Syndicate Press

It's the FALL Season ... time to rake those leaves and prune your plants!!!

Let The Arboretum Gift Shop make your life a little easier with some of our newly arrived products ...

As seen at our last two Los Angeles

Garden Shows, the amazing **A-JUST-O-RAKE**, the most versatile rake you will ever own! This rake adjusts to many positions to cultivate, dig up weeds and rake up

materials such as acorns, pine needles and all sizes of leaves.

Full size rake ... firm comfort grip ... expands from 7 1/2 inches to more than 2 feet wide ... Only \$19.95.

FELCO ... simply the best pruners in the world ... introduces the **NEW**

FELCO #13 Pruner, a multi-purpose pruning shear with 25% less effort and still single handed. However, the extended length of the left handle also allows for two handed use when cutting thick branches.

\$57.00

The Gift Shop carries the complete line of **FELCO** Pruning Shears, Pruning Saws, Loppers and Accessories.



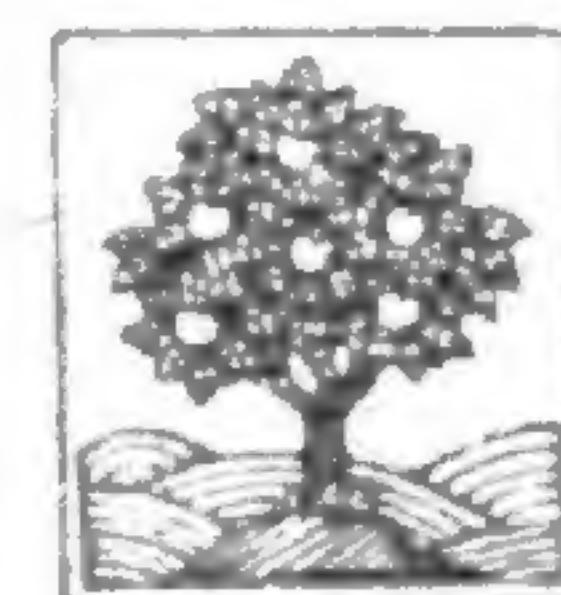
THE PRUNING HANDBOOK

by Steve Bradley
Paperback, \$24.95

This invaluable guide will show you how to get the most out of your plants. Highly illustrated throughout, it covers all the most popular garden and indoor plants. In addition to presenting basic pruning techniques and all the equipment needed, the handbook addresses formative and



routine pruning of roses, vines, climbing plants, hedges, shrubs, fruit bushes and indoor plants. Special techniques such as deadheading, bark ringing and root pruning are also discussed.



Crabtree & Evelyn[®]

Crabtree & Evelyn products will now be available at the Gift Shop starting in late September. ☺

ARBORETUM SIGHTINGS AND SITES



This photograph would bring back memories to the Southern Pacific Railroad stationmaster of the 1800's. Where on the grounds of The Arboretum was this photograph taken? And, what is the photograph of?

Write out your answer and place it in the SITES AT THE ARBORETUM

box located on the information table in the entry of the Gift Shop. The deadline is September 30. All correct answers will be placed in a drawing to select just one. The winner will be notified by October 6. Your special gift will be ready for you to pick up at the Gift Shop. ☺



These photos
were taken at
previous
Los Angeles
Garden Shows.



1997 Los Angeles Garden

In Southern California, Fall means THE LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW! Produced by the California Arboretum Foundation, to benefit The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, this year's five-day spectacular is held Wednesday, October 22 through Sunday, October 26, 9 am to 5 pm daily. The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, the 127-acre horticulture and botanical center of Southern California, 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, is the site for this magnificent garden showcase.

The 1997 theme is *"GARDENS OF OUR WORLD: The Oceanic & Asian Approach"* with The Los Angeles Times and Lincoln-Mercury as sponsors.

Be part of the expected attendance of more than 40,000 garden enthusiasts, from beginner to seasoned professional. Attendees will get great ideas for building garden creations at home and

learn from the most respected professionals, through displays and lectures.

The Garden Show features a variety of attractions.

Style Gardens for the Home, Condominium or Patio

Southern California's most outstanding landscape designers, nurseries and growers present gardens and outdoor environments that interpret this year's Oceanic & Asian Approach theme.

ASID Tablescape

Living lifestyle settings created by Southern California's leading American Society of Interior Design (ASID) members and coordinated by the Pasadena Chapter of ASID.

Children's Garden Playhouse

Special one-of-a-kind Children's Garden Playhouses designed and built for display and auction.



Show Blooms in October



Ikebana Pavilion

A Japanese floral art form tradition dating back to the 6th century created by students and masters.

The Floral Pavilion

Designs by leading florists utilizing flowers from Oceanic and Asian countries.

Seminars and Demonstrations

Garden experts and industry professionals provide new insights for beginner and advanced gardeners. Attendance to these lectures and demonstrations are included in general admission price.

Garden Show speakers include:

Jack Christensen, "All About Roses"

Mary Tonetti Dorra, "Beautiful American Vegetable Gardens"

Robert Kourick, "Pruning: Clipping With Confidence"

Clair Martin, III, "100 English Roses for the American Garden"

Bridget Skinner, "Feng Shui in the Garden"

Bob Smaus, "From the Potting Shed"

Jan Smithen, "Lavender"

David Snow, "Arbors, Fences, Benches and more"

Jan Weverka, "Flower Arranging with Garden Roses"

The MarketPlace

Innovative garden and home related items available for purchase featuring selected exhibitors from around the world.

The PlantMarket

An opportunity for Garden Show attendees to purchase new and exciting plant materials.

Los Angeles Times Cooking Pavilion

Demonstrations of the latest trends and products in garden related cooking.



TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets are \$7 (\$6 CAF Members) prior to opening day, \$8 at the gate. Children 11 years and under are free.

Tickets for groups of 10 or more just \$6.50 when purchased in advance. This year, more than ever, you will want to take advantage of the opportunity to purchase tickets in advance, providing not only tickets to the show, but the benefit of savings as well.

If you belong to an organization with people on the go, make the show your yearly event. Put together a "Day At The Garden Show" by purchasing tickets in advance at a substantial discount for parties of ten or more. One complimentary ticket is provided with the purchase of 20 or more tickets.

For more information call 626/447-8207.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Encourage your friends to join the California Arboretum Foundation!

- Benefactor Member** (\$1,000/year)
- Affiliate Member** (\$500/year)
- Sponsor Member** (\$250/year)
- Sustainer Member** (\$100/year)
- Garden Member** (\$55/year)
- Individual Member** (\$40/year)
- Golden Garden Member** (\$35/year)

\$ _____ Membership

\$ _____ I have enclosed a donation to benefit The Arboretum

\$ _____ Total Payment Enclosed

Mr. and Mrs./ Ms./Miss/Mr./Mrs.

Address

City, State and Zip

() ()

Phone: Home Office

- Check enclosed payable to CAF
- Mastercard Visa
- American Express

Card #

Expiration Date

Signature

Date

Mail to: Membership Manager
California Arboretum Foundation
301 N. Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007-2697

THE 1997 LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW is just around the corner. As a **BENEFATOR**, one of your member benefits is a five-day pass to the Show. Upgrade now to receive this fabulous opportunity.

SPEAKING OF THE LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW ... if you are interested in being a volunteer at the Show, please call the Foundation office and mention the "Garden Guild."

DECEMBER 6 & 7 IS THE Gift Shop Holiday Open House. All members receive a 10% discount. Encourage your friends to join so they too can enjoy the savings as a Foundation Member. Remember this 10% member discount is good year round.

AT ANY LEVEL OF MEMBERSHIP, please remember that you are entitled to receive a 20% discount on all Foundation classes, workshops, lectures, tours and family programs.

AS AN **AFFILIATE MEMBER** of the Foundation, you will receive the Preview Passport to attend member-only preview plant sales at the Fullerton Arboretum, Quail Botanical Gardens, Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and UC Irvine Arboretum. What a great way to support the gardens of Southern California.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE THANK YOU Honor Board outside the Gift Shop? This board honors our **SPONSOR**, **BENEFATOR** and **AFFILIATE** members for their annual support of The Arboretum.

REMEMBER ... The Arboretum is open to all members for early morning walking at 8 a.m. Enjoy the solitude of the grounds before opening to the public.

JUST IN TIME FOR FALL PLANTING ... all members of the Foundation also receive a 10% at the following nurseries.

ALTADENA NURSERY

1968 N. Lake Avenue, Altadena

BURKHARD NURSERIES, INC.

390 N. Orange Grove, Pasadena

796-4355

91103

DESERT TO JUNGLE NURSERY

~~3211 W. Beverly Blvd, Montebello~~
~~WILLOWLAND~~ LAKEVIEW PLACE

FOUR SEASON ORCHID

823 S. San Gabriel, San Gabriel

GARDEN VIEW NURSERY

12901 Lower Azusa Road, Irwindale

LAS TUNAS NURSERY

1155 E. Las Tunas Drive, San Gabriel

PLANT SYSTEM

2552 Hyperion Avenue, Silverlake

PRESENT PERFECT

140 S. Kinneloa Avenue, Pasadena

ROGER'S GARDENS

2301 San Joaquin Hills, Corona del Mar

SAN GABRIEL NURSERY

632 S. San Gabriel Blvd, San Gabriel

SMITH & HAWKEN

519 S. Lake, Pasadena

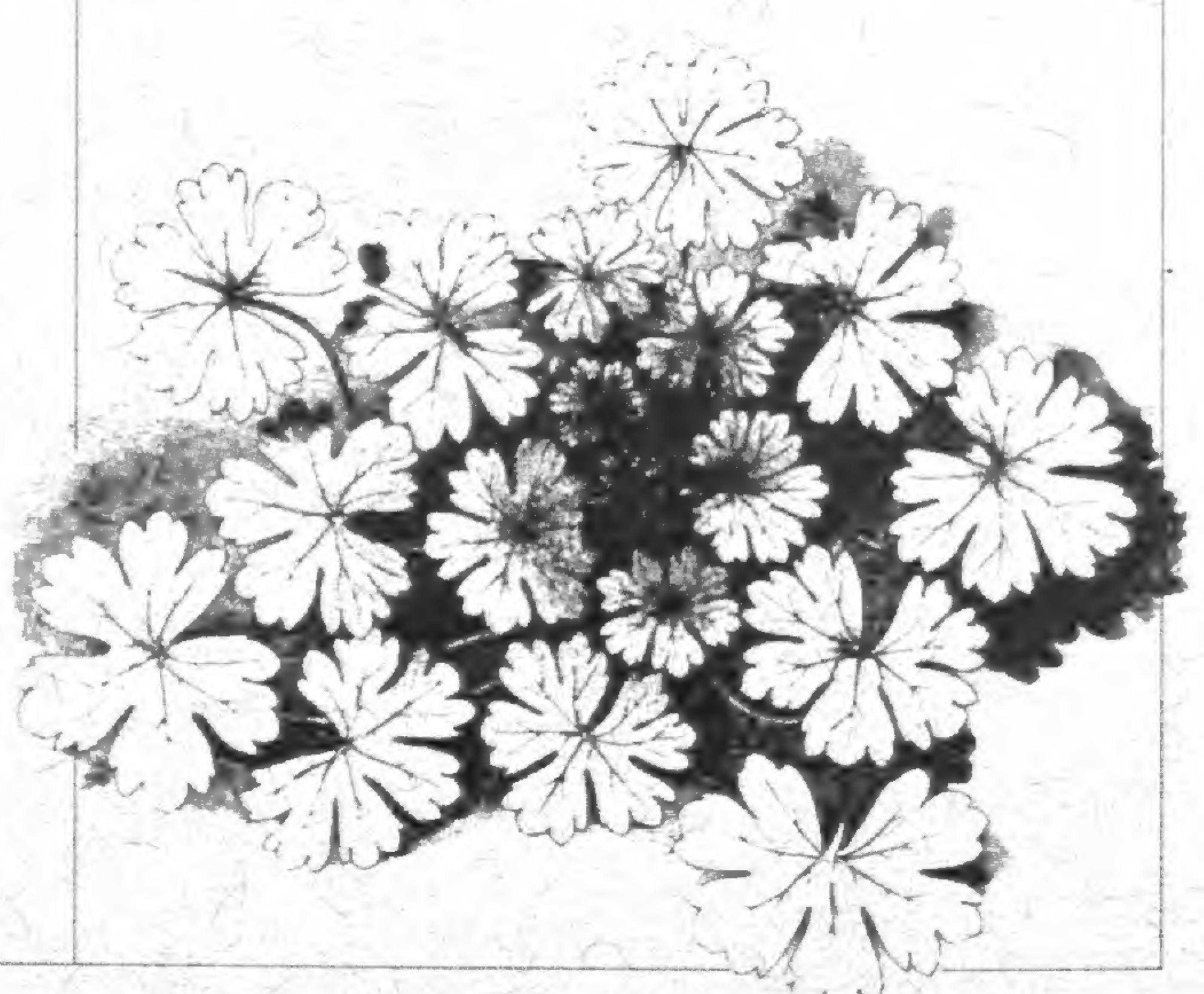
SOUTH PASADENA NURSERY

1507 El Centro, South Pasadena

STEWART ORCHIDS

3838 Sepulveda Blvd, Culver City

3376 Foothill Blvd, Carpenteria



NEW MEMBERS FALL 1997

The following people became new members from April 16 through July 15, 1997

Mr. Gil Aguirre
and Ms. Kathy Cuccia
Saad A. Al-Mujaljal
Mrs. Erna Anderson
Jeannette and Kurt Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. C. Robert Arth
Fred Austgen
and Allen Cunningham
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Mr. and Mrs. David Battaglia
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Mrs. Mary Virginia Meeker
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Roger Wing and Sonja Wing
Kim and Lisa Wu
Ms. Lina-Lotte Wulf
Mr. and Mrs. William Wyllie
Glenn Yoshida and Mariko
Yanagihara
Mr. Lingbin Zhu
and Ms. Jianrong Li

THANK YOU...THANK YOU...THANK YOU...

Thank you to the following members who donated financial support from April 16 through July 15, 1997

Ms. Mary M. Arakawa
Arrowhead Garden Club
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Mr. Carlton R. Brown III
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Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Tannenbaum
The Stanley Works
Times Mirror
Mr. and Mrs. William West



"Salvia Madness in the Fall Garden" with Jan Smithen

If your garden has the late season "blahs," think about adding perennial salvias. They come into their best bloom during the late part of the year. Salvias just love heat, and as long as you keep them dead-headed, they will continue to perform into winter.

I will share with you some of my favorites with the hope that they will give

you pleasure in the coming fall months. **Salvia 'indigo spires'** is an unforgettable sight when you weave it up through the back side of a rose. A good six feet tall and three feet wide at maturity, it leans on its companions and sends its deep violet-blue flower wands looping out and up through them. In autumn, these elongate and the entire plant takes on an indigo blue cast.

Almost as tall, but more upright and compact, is **Salvia 'Purple Majesty'**. The shorter flower raceme bears larger individual two-lipped flowers that are a rich true purple. They appear to glow against the plants own Coneflowers. Both '**Indigo Spires**' and '**Purple Majesty**' need full sun, enriched soil and regular garden water.

Gardeners who see **Salvia 'Van Houttei'** in bloom begin immediately to plot how to use it in their own gardens. No matter how tall and wide it might get - a good

five by five feet- these are jewels. They rise out of a well-clothed light green plant from August on. '**Van Houttei**' gives its best in light shade with regular irrigation, well-amended soil and a good layer of top mulch.

A lower growing and bushy salvia for sunny places is **S. x jamensis 'Sierra San Antonio'**. At three by two feet, it fits into the smallest garden and blooms from early summer until really cold weather. The blooms are peach colored with a soft yellow lower lip which the eye reads as an unusual sandstone color in the garden. Mass them to the side or in front of any plant with reddish foliage or flowers. This plant relishes cutting back by half once or twice during the growing season and needs the same well-amended soil and regular water. ☺

Jan Smithen is a regular contributor to Arboretum News.

Visit the CAF Website at www.the-arboretum.com



California Arboretum Foundation
A non-profit corporation benefiting
THE ARBORETUM of Los Angeles County
301 North Baldwin Avenue
Arcadia, CA 91007-2697
(626) 447-8207
Gift Shop: (626) 447-8751 Open to the public 10-5pm
Arboretum Information: (626) 821-3222
Plant Advice: (626) 821-3239

CAF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Judith S. Morse, Executive Director

*Have you received your September, October and November Calendar of Events? If not, call us!
Look for your next calendar toward the end of November.*

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Dated Material